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CORNELL SUMMER SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.

The Summer School of Geology and Geography, in connection with the regular summer session of Cornell University, offers courses for students in various stages of advance in geographic science; courses for teachers in the grades, for high school and normal school teachers, and for college students and teachers. The school has been organized, and the courses arranged, in response to what seems to be a demand for instruction in geographic and geologic fact, correlated with courses in method and procedure in the teaching of the earth sciences. A broad range of geographic subject-matter is offered in the various courses. There are a number of courses on the pedagogical side, in which methods are presented rather than subject-matter; and ample provision is made for instruction in the laboratory and field aspects of the subject.

In the selection of the staff care has been taken to secure men whose previous work qualifies them to treat special phases of the subject, and whose fitness to do so will be generally recognized by teachers. The director and organizer of the school is Professor R. S. Tarr, of Cornell University, who also offers lecture courses in Physical Geography and the Geography of Europe. Geology and the Geography of the United States are offered by Professor A. P. Brigham, of Colgate University, who, like Professor Tarr, is well known as an author of successful school books. Both of these men will actively participate in the field work, in the direction of advanced study, and in the conferences, of which a feature is made. Dr. Charles McMurry, one of the best-known teachers of geography in the middle West, and the writer of several books on pedagogical subjects, relating especially to the pedagogy of geography, offers courses in Home Geography and in Grammar School Geography; Supervisor Whitbeck, of the State Normal and Model Schools at Trenton, N. J., who has achieved marked success in geographic work in his own State, and a former teacher in the Summer School of the South, offers courses on Class Room Problems and Laboratory Methods in the grades; Principal Emerson, of the Cobbet School, Lynn, Mass., one of the most active geography teachers in New England, offers lecture and laboratory work in Commercial Geography; Assistant Principal Carney, of the Ithaca High School, conducts the Laboratory Work in Physical Geography; and the other instructors are actively identified with the teaching of geography.

The allied courses in the Summer Session—botany, zoology, education, history, economics, etc.—and the college atmosphere, together with the library, museum, and laboratory facilities, add to the advantages of the school.

Cornell University is beautifully situated on a hillside 400 feet above Cayuga, the most beautiful of the Finger Lakes. A better place could scarcely be found for varied field work than in this dissected plateau region of central New York, to which glaciation has added many problems of scientific interest, and formed the many gorges and waterfalls for which the region is famed. The campus is bordered by two deep gorges, one of which, Fall Creek gorge, contains five considerable waterfalls, including Ithaca Falls, 156 feet high; while within walking distance of the University are 15 good-sized cataracts, 6 of which are over 100 feet high, and one, Taughannock Falls (220 feet), is the highest fall in the State. In the field work excursions are made on foot, and by wagon, steamer, and train, to most of these points, as well as to Niagara, to the coal mines at Wilkes Barre, to Watkins Glen, to Union Springs, and to the shore of Lake Ontario. No more delightful place for a summer vacation could be chosen; and, by the proper combination of indoor and outdoor work, the teacher may escape the danger of overwork, which is the chief objection to spending the vacation at a Summer School, and yet gain an inspiration and add to the store of knowledge which every genuine teacher needs constantly to increase.

Cornell passed through a severe typhoid epidemic last winter, which, for a time, threatened to cause the abandonment of the Summer Session. This epidemic is not only past, but the town is probably safer now than ever before, for it has been for months under the care of one of the most eminent sanitary engineers of the country, and no known precaution has been omitted to guard against a possible recurrence of the epidemic. Probably few cities would undertake such thorough methods to avoid a repetition of the disease, for Ithaca is almost entirely dependent on the University, and another outbreak would be most disastrous to the University, and, therefore, to the city. It is on the assurance of Dr. Soper, the sanitary engineer in charge of the city, that Ithaca is a safe place to come to, that the plans of the Summer Session are to be carried out.

It seems unfortunate that this first attempt by an American university to offer a wide range of geographic instruction for teachers should have had its success endangered by the unforeseen outbreak of an epidemic. With the range of courses, the able staff of instructors, the connection with a large university, and in a region rich in

geographic and geologic phenomena, as well as beautiful and attractive scenically, the experiment ought to succeed, and probably will. If it does it will be an event of importance in American geography, for it will open up to teachers an opportunity to learn under good guidance how to better their work, and that will have the tendency to place geography teaching on a higher plane. Moreover, it will encourage other universities to develop similar schools. One of the great needs of geography to-day is to have the great army of teachers better trained; and such a school as this offers an opportunity for such training.

ABSTRACT OF A LECTURE BY MR. HARRY DE WINDT,

MARCH 7, 1903.

“PARIS TO NEW YORK OVERLAND.”

Mr. de Windt, the Vicomte de Clinchamp, and Mr. George Harding left Paris in December, 1900, to reach New York by way of Siberia and Alaska. At Irkutsk, where they arrived in ten days, they took sleighs and followed the frozen Lena to Yakutsk, a journey of nearly 2,000 miles in a northeasterly direction. The temperature was from 15 to 35 degrees below zero. Horses were changed at the post-houses, thirty miles apart. It took twenty-three days to reach Yakutsk, where the horses were changed for reindeer.

The next stage was to Verkhoyansk, 600 miles to the north, and the coldest inhabited place on the globe, with an average temperature for the year of 2 degrees Fahrenheit. On this stage the post-houses were sometimes 80, sometimes 150 miles apart. They left Verkhoyansk on the 2d of March for Srednekolymsk, 1,100 miles to the northeastward. This distance was made in twenty-three days, through blinding snowstorms. At Srednekolymsk dog-sleds were procured and the travellers set out for Bering Strait. They were often without the means of making a fire, the dogs gave out and went mad, and when Chaun Bay was reached the provisions were exhausted. The next day a Chukchi settlement was found. East Cape was reached on the 19th of May. Here the party were taken on board the U. S. Revenue cutter *Thetis*, and landed on the opposite coast. Then they went by a trading steamer to Cape Nome, and thence to New York.

Mr. de Windt thinks that almost any engineering feat is possible, but he regards the building of a railroad over the vast Siberian tundras and the tunnelling of Bering Strait as enterprises little likely to attract the attention of capitalists for a long time to come.